

Message Text

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ACTION AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AECE-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

IO-12 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 GAC-01

SCEM-02 RSR-01 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4109

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DEPT PASS AEC FOR HOYLE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH JA

SUBJECT: FUEL SUPPLY FOR JAPCO'S TSURUGA REACTOR

SUMMARY: DUE UNANTICIPATED FUEL ELEMENT FAILURES, JAPCO WILL NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT FUEL ASSEMBLIES FOR APRIL 1974 REFUELING OF TSURUGA REACTOR. PLAN CONTACT AEC IN NEAR FUTURE RE EMERGENCY DELIVERY OF ENRICHED URANIUM UNDER THEIR EXISTING TOLL ENRICHING CONTRACT. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPCO OFFICIALS HAVE ADVISED AEC SCIREP THAT DURING CURRENT SHUTDOWN OF TSURUGA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SNIFFING TECHNIQUES INDICATE THAT 59 OUT OF 308 FUEL ELEMENTS ARE LEAKING. FAILURES ARE OCCURRING IN BOTH INITIAL AND RELOAD FUEL. OF 48 RELOAD ELEMENTS FABRICATED BY N F UNDER SUBCONTRACT TO GE, FOUR FAILED AND WERE

REMOVED PREVIOUSLY AT BURN-UP OF 5000 MWD/T. AN ADDITIONAL 15 ARE INCLUDED IN THE 59 FAILURES NOW DETECTED AND THEIR BURN-UP IS ESTIMATED AT 8,000 MWD/T.

2. DURING CURRENT SHUTDOWN JAPCO HAD PLANNED INSERT 76 NEW ELEMENTS ON ASSUMPTION ALL RELOAD ELEMENTS WERE SOUND. DUE TO

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ADDITIONAL FAILURES WILL ACTUALLY REPLACE 91 ELEMENTS. EXTRA 15 ELEMENTS WILL COME FROM THOSE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 1974 RELOADING. AS RESULT OF THIS ACTION PLUS ANTICIPATION OF ADDITIONAL FAILURES IN RELOAD ELEMENTS, JAPCO NOW EXPECTS NEED 40

MORE ELEMENTS FOR APRIL 1974 SHUTDOWN THAN CURRENTLY SCHEDULED BE AVAILABLE.

3. JAPCO HAS CHECKED WITH GE BUT UNABLE LOCATE ANY EXTRA ELEMENTS. JNF WAS SCHEDULED SHUTDOWN THEIR PLANT IN NOVEMBER TO EXPAND PLANT CAPACITY, HOWEVER ARE WILLING DEFER SHUTDON TO FABRICATE ADDITIONAL 40 ELEMENTS FOR JAPCO. ALL MATERIALS AVAILABLE EXCEPT ENRICHED URANIUM. JAPCO CURRENTLY PREPARING DETAILS OF REQUIREMENT AND WILL ADVISE AEC DIRECTLY.

4. JAPCO NOT YET ABLE ACCOUNT FOR EARLY FAILURE OF RELOAD ELEMENTS. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE SUGGESTED SEVERAL FACTORS THAT COULD BEAR ON PROBLEM (A) ZIRCALLOY TUBING WAS THE FIRST PRODUCED IN GE WILMINGTON PLANT; (B) UO-2 POWDER WHICH WAS OBTAINED FROM GE WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO SINTER AND (C) ELEMENTS WERE THE FIRST PRODUCED BY JNF.

5. JAPCO DOES NOT PLAN RELEASE ABOVE INFO THIS TIME. ALSO, THEY WILL PROBABLY NOT INCLUDE ABOVE DETAIL IN THEIR REQUEST TO AEC. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE ASKED SCIREP TO PROVIDE THIS INFO AS BACKGROUND FOR AEC CONSIDERATION OF EMERGENCY NATURE THEIR REQUIREMENT. DECONTROL 5/25/74 INGERSOLL

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